

PHILADELPHIA LINCOLN 1 STAMPS
24 ST. GAUDENS
1909

Drawer 21

STAMPS: LINCOLN

71.2009.085 05586

Philately

2¢ St. Gaudens Stamp 1909

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

LINCOLN STAMPS OUT TOO SOON

Fifty Thousand Sold a Day in Advance Through Brooklyn Error.

The new issue of Lincoln stamps went askew in the Brooklyn Post Office through an error, and, though the orders were that none should be issued until yesterday, 50,000 were passed out in three hours on Thursday before the mistake was discovered. The rapidity with which the news was passed along is causing the Post Office officials to wonder. A package of stamps was broken open by a clerk at noon on Thursday when a man asked for "four twos." The buyer was placing them in his wallet when he suddenly decided he would take 200. Even then the clerk did not notice the mistake he had made.

Soon the influx of persons into the Post Office in Washington street became remarkable. They bought the new Lincoln stamps by the hundred until 50,000 were sold. It was 3 o'clock when Assistant Postmaster Newcomb passed the stamp clerk's window. He saw at a glance that the Lincoln stamps had been passed out, contrary to strict orders and Post Office red tape. There was consternation. The selling clerk almost fainted when a hurried investigation was started. A line of men and women clamored outside the window for the Lincoln stamps, and there was difficulty in getting them to go away.

There is the mitigating circumstance in favor of the stamp clerk that there was no distinguishing mark on the packages sent from Washington. When he picked up a package he gave no extra thought to it and mechanically passed out the new stamps, twelve hours ahead of time.

A RUSH FOR LINCOLN STAMPS

The Kansas City Star.
2-12-09.
**THE CENTENARY ISSUE IS ON SALE
HERE TO-DAY.**

**Nearly 10,000 Had Been Sold at Noon
and More May Be Ordered—They
Bear the Saint Gaudens Profile.**

The 10,000 Lincoln memorial two-cent stamps placed on sale at the postoffice this morning were almost gone at noon. When the stamp window opened at 6 o'clock this morning about twenty persons were in line waiting to buy the commemorative stamps. Several persons had sent messenger boys. A limited number of stamps were sold to each buyer.

The size and shape of the Lincoln stamp are the same as the regular issue of two-cent stamps. The color is red. The stamp bears a profile of Lincoln after Saint-Gaudens's statue. J. H. Harris, postmaster, said more of the Lincoln stamps had been ordered, but he did not know when the office would receive them.

LINCOLN SOUVENIR STAMPS

**Placing Them on Sale is the Way the
Postoffice Department Celebrates
the Day.**

The Postoffice department celebrated Lincoln's birthday by placing the Lincoln souvenir postage stamps on sale. There was a big demand for them and the whole 10,000 received at the Omaha office could have been sold out in an hour. Recognizing the fact that many of the stamps would be wanted for souvenirs, the sale was restricted to but small amounts for each individual, not to exceed 50 cents or \$1 worth to each individual, and these apportionments had to be reduced later in the day.

The Lincoln stamp resembles the ordinary 2-cent stamp in general appearance. Its color is red, with a portrait of Lincoln in profile, the face turned to the right. Underneath the profile portrait are the figures "1809—Feb. 12—1909." The stamp denomination of "Two Cents" follows beneath the dates. The portrait is surrounded by a wreath of laurel and above the portrait appears the words "U. S. Postage." These souvenir stamps consist of but the single denomination of 2 cents. None is made of other denominations.

The Omaha Daily Bee 2-13-09

*My Price 2
13
09*

The Lincoln Commemorative Stamp

By EDWIN BROOKS

(With permission of Major Ralph A. Kimble)

IT is this month that we observe the one hundred and twenty-third anniversary of one of America's great statesmen . . . Abraham Lincoln, freer of slaves! And it is also just twenty-three years ago on the one hundredth anniversary of this great man that a Lincoln memorial stamp was issued. Most collectors know very little about this stamp which some think can be picked up by every Tom, Dick, or Harry. It is one of the most complicated commemorative stamps ever issued and has fooled quite a number of men in the game. The reason for this will be stated later.

This stamp was to have been issued on February 12, 1909 but was really out on January 28, 1909, being sold through various postoffices throughout the country, all at the same time. The stamps were in the ordinary perforated sheet form, being printed of course by the Bureau of Engraving and Printing on flatbed presses in sheets of four hundred. Most of these were then perforated into the standard gauge of twelve and then into panes of one hundred stamps each.

On February 4, seven days later, sheets of four hundred stamps were issued imperforate. Also on this same day there appeared number twelve perforate but on a new kind of paper with a bluish or grayish tint. This, as was found later, was a new, high quality paper of thirty-three and one-third percent contents. The reason for this was obvious, for the United States Postal Department was experimenting, and trying to find a paper that would not have an uneven shrinkage as the old one had. Besides having uneven shrinkage, the perforations were not well centered, throwing off most of the stamps on each sheet. About 637,000 stamps were issued with this new bluish tint paper, all perforated twelve sheets, and although a large amount was printed, the stamps are not so easily obtained today.

To sum it up, three kinds were issued thus far on the Lincoln Memorial, to wit:

637,000 of the bluish tinted paper on twelve perforate, 1,273,900 of ordinary paper imperforate and of the twelve perforate 149,025,600 were printed. Both papers are water-marked "U.S.P.S." and each stamp having an initial beside that of a stitch mark, caused by the stitches joining the ends of the band by which the paper pulp was led out of the vat (in the process of making the sheets).

We now come to another phase of detection, that of the plate numbers used on all three varieties. Only eight were used for all three varieties and numbers being 4976-7-8-9 and 4981-2-3-4. There is also another unique item found here, and that is: that beginning with the Lincoln memorial stamp, the plates were so constructed that a three millimetre vertical space between each of the six outer vertical rows of stamps on both right and left of the plate was left blank while the inner eight rows had only two millimetre space between them. (This, before the new plates and paper were used, caused a shrinkage, when drying, that offset the margins.) The plates with the uneven spacing (to be righted again by the shrinkage) had a small five-point star on the margin of each sheet of stamps, next to that of the plate number. Some of these three millimetre or two millimetre are now very scarce.

Another plate item to be found in this complicated commemorative stamp is the "Bureau, Engraving and Printing" near the plate numbers, while the engraver's initial is to be found on the edge of the margin and also that of an arrow on the margin to guide the cutter in cutting the blocks of four hundred stamps (in which half of the arrow is to be seen on each block of four hundred). In the imperforates one can secure an uncut block with the whole arrow on it. The reason for the imperforates shall be told later. The rarest of all imperforates is the very middle block which has an arrow crossing on other one, running horizontal and vertical, so as to make a complete cross of two arrows.

Six-Cent Dark Blue

Princess Elizabeth, daughter of the Duke of York and granddaughter of King George V., makes her bow to stamp collectors through the courtesy of Newfoundland, says an editorial writer in the *New York Sun*. He continues: "Her portrait will be found on the six-cent stamp of dark blue in the new issue to appear early this year. Other members of the royal family are represented; the King on the two-cent stamp of rose, the Queen on the three-cent stamp of brown-orange and the Prince of Wales on the four-cent stamp of red-violet. Princess Elizabeth may say that she is three times as important as one grandparent and twice as important as the second and find no grandparent to say her nay. Stamp collectors, however, will know that frequency of use is the true test of importance in stamps, and will ask what the six-cent stamp honoring a six-year-old will carry.

"Other denomination in the new issue of Newfoundland stamps show: a catch of cod on the one-cent green, a caribou standing amid fir trees on the five-cent violet; a leaping salmon on the ten-cent orange; a Newfoundland dog on the fourteen-cent black and white; a baby seal on the fifteen-cent ultramarine; a view of Cape Race on the twenty-cent myrtle green; a fleet of sailing vessels on the twenty-five-cent vermilion and a fleet of fishing boats bound for the Bay on the thirty-cent magenta. No boy or girl could ask for a more compact or more fascinating guide in commercial geography."

Colonial Mail

Massachusetts was the first of the colonies to establish a post office. In 1539 the General court issued the following statement: "It is ordered that notice be given that Richard Fairbanks, his house in Boston, is the place appointed for all letters, which are brought from beyond the sea, or are sent thither, to be left with him, and he is allowed for every letter a penny, and he must answer all messages through his neglect of this kind." Other colonies sent mail by messengers with some regularity. In Virginia every planter forwarded mail from his plantation to the next one.

"I like HOBBIES very much; it has been instrumental in teaching me the values of many articles heretofore thought worthless. I've kicked around fortunes in my time in antiques, stamps, coins, etc. But thanks to the past issues, and, the future ones to come, I won't again."—Arthur R. White, Ky.

"I want to congratulate you on the splendid magazine, HOBBIES, you are putting out. I read many magazines and books, but always read HOBBIES before I start on any other."—The House that Jack Built, Tex.

"Enclosed find \$1.00 in stamps for which send me your journal HOBBIES for one year. I find something instructive on every page."—S. O. Barwick, Ind.

DON'T READ THIS AD

unless you are dissatisfied with the usual run of approvals you have been getting and would like to look at something different. Our net approvals do not contain any great rarities, not any junk, just good stamps priced right. If you are a general collector, with less than 20,000 stamps, send for a book, we know that you will be pleased. First-class references are of course required. 1-33c

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CHICAGO

ILLINOIS
c-my-32

Now we come to the reason of the imperforates, which is very simple, for at that time (1909) there were several slot-machine companies that cut the stamps into large rolls, pasting each strip end on end and then put into these machines to be rented out. The ordinary twelve perforates of the Government was too weak to stand the strain so these companies (there were several) perforated their own

stamps to fit their own machines. This then was the reason of the imperforates. There were four different companies of which there were ten varieties on the market. Of these ten, three were vertical coils while the rest were horizontal. Through the courtesy of a foremost stamp writer, collector, and radio speaker, Major Ralph A. Kimble, we print the following diagram:

THE LINCOLN STAMP IN PRIVATE COMPANIES' COILS

Name of Machine	Coiled	Method of Perf.	Varieties	1930 Value (pair)
Schermack 1	Hor.	8 1mm holes close together. 6mm blank space at each end.	2mm space 3mm space	\$3.00 2.00
Schermack 11	Hor.	6 1½ holes close together. 5½mm blank space at each end.	2mm space 3mm space	3.00 2.00
Schermack III	Hor.	2 5mm slots close together. 5½mm space at each end.	2mm space 3mm space	.20 .15
Mail-O-Meter I	Hor.	6 large 2mm holes close together. 3mm space at each end.	2mm space 3mm space	1.75 1.50
Mail-O-Meter III	Hor.	5 large 2mm holes close together. 4½mm space at each end.	2mm space 3mm space	2.00 1.50
U. S. Automatic Vending Co. I	Vert.	8mm cut in middle, large wedge cut at each end.	1 var. only	.40
U. S. Automatic Vending Co. II	Hor.	11 1mm holes close together. Wedge cut at each end.	2mm space 3mm space	1.00 1.00
U. S. Automatic Vending Co. III	Hor.	Long 18mm cut, with wedge cut at ends.	2mm space 3mm space	1.00 1.00
Brinkerhoff 1	Vert.	4 large 2½mm holes	1 var. only	1.00
Brinkerhoff 11	Vert.	2 large 2mm holes and 3 6mm cuts.	1 var. only	.40

(By Special Permission of Major R. Kimble)
(Continued on page 60)

Worth a Dollar a Copy

"Herewith you will find remittance to cover one year's subscription to HOBBIES. If possible to begin this subscription with the August issue of this year, please do so.

"Thought the dollar which you ask for a year's subscription meant per copy. I have paid a dollar for a lot less material. Will look forward to receiving my first copies by return mail."—Wm. P. Donlon, N. Y.

"I look forward each month for HOBBIES arrival, and enjoy every page. Every collector should be thankful that he has such a fine publication to support."—Sherman Corbett.

"HOBBIES is one of the most interesting magazines I have ever read."—Christine List, Windom, Minn.

"Results have been very good for ads just inserted in HOBBIES."—J. H. English, Ohio.

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118 N. La Salle St.
Room 213

CHICAGO ILLINOIS
Opposite the City Hall
WRITE FOR OUR MONTHLY MAIL
AUCTION CATALOGUE c-my-32



See Description on Following Page

"THE INFELICITIES OF LOOKING LIKE BOOTH"

While Lincoln's assassin was still at large, the *New York Tribune* of April 20, 1865 carried on its front page a startling story entitled "Booth In Pennsylvania." This wild rumor prompted Governor A. G. Curtin to issue a proclamation offering a reward of \$10,000 for the arrest of John Wilkes Booth, if captured in the Keystone State.

The account of Booth in Pennsylvania was featured by *The World*, New York, N. Y.; in its April 21, 1865 issue. The story originated at Reading, Pennsylvania, on April 19, when it was believed that Booth was a passenger on a train that left that city at 6:00 p.m. for Pottsville.

A Reading citizen said that he first saw the suspected person in a saloon on Tuesday night in company with another, drinking freely. He followed the man until he got upon the moving train. At this point, the Reading man boarded the departing train and shook hands with the suspect and asked him "whether he was going up in the train." Upon his answering that "he was not" he explained that he would be back in Reading in a day or so. The stranger, during the course of the conversation colored-up several times, and appeared annoyed and desirous of avoiding observation.

The citizen, whose name was not revealed, said he was positive that this man was Booth, because he had known the actor for several years. Just as the train left the station the loyal citizen jumped off the passenger coach and notified several officials of the railroad. His failure to give the alarm at once was an annoying development with which the officials had to cope in effecting the capture.

Corroborating the amateur sleuth, Mr. Lyon, a United States detective, said that Booth actually came to Reading by train. Furthermore, the detective stated that Booth had been in Reading all day. Mr. Lyon, assisted by Mr. Miller, another detective, proceeded to trace the assassin. They followed him to the depot and ascertained that a man answering Booth's description got on the train which had left for Pottsville.

These developments were immediately made known to Mr. G. A. Nicholls, Superintendent of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad. The first move to apprehend the fugitive was to telegraph to Port Clinton. Unfortunately, the telegraph operator was not at his post, so an engine was fired up, and the two detectives and the man who claimed to have seen Booth proceeded at full steam to overtake the regular train.

The locomotive did not overtake the regular train, but at Port Clinton they were informed that the man they described had gotten off the train at that station. But which way the fugitive went, no one appeared to know.

Telegrams were sent to all points along the line of the road, because the detectives did not know whether or not this elusive man took the Catawissa train. A dispatch was also sent to Tamaqua, to the conductor of the train. Meanwhile, Port Clinton was searched with "a fine tooth comb."

Detective Lyon next received a telegram from Conductor Bright, at Catawissa saying: "No such man came through on my train." However, upon the arrival of another train at Tamaqua, the conductor telegraphed: "The man is on the train." Another telegram was hastily sent to the next station for further information and with orders for the man's detention. The chase had now narrowed down in one direction and Mr. Lyon was fully satisfied that the elusive fugitive was Lincoln's assassin.

Lyon issued a description of the man as follows: "About five feet eight inches in height; black hair, cut short and inclined to curl; short black mustache; had cotton in both ears; wore a white felt hat; had a piece of crape on the left arm; wore a Lincoln badge on the right breast in mourning; and had on a black coat with common blue military pants."

G. A. Nicholls, the Railroad Superintendent, reported to S. Bradford, Esq., regarding his part in the investigation in a letter written at Reading on April 20:

"On my return from Pottsville, the representations to me last evening were such that I sent a special engine to Pottsville, after the up-evening passenger train; but the man had left the train at Auburn before the telegram could reach it. He then walked back to Port Clinton after dark, and stole his passage to Tamaqua on one of our coal trains last night. He is now caught at Tamaqua, where we telegraphed to look out for him, and will be held until identified. There has been some ground for suspicion that it is Booth."

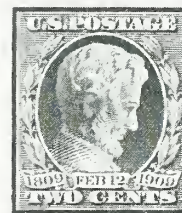
With the suspect in custody, the man who said he knew Booth and had seen him in Reading, was taken before a justice of the peace to make an affidavit of his knowledge. At this point, the cloak-and-dagger affair became a farce. The citizen of Reading swore that he had only seen Booth once, and that was seven years ago in a theatre in Baltimore. What was more surprising, he did not now believe that the person apprehended at Tamaqua was Booth. Yet, heretofore, he stated positively that the man was Booth and that he knew him intimately. Needless to say, the alleged assassin whose name was not revealed, was released.

The account of this incident is of no historical importance, except to indicate the apprehension of the American people while Booth was a fugitive. In every community, any strange man resembling the handsome actor, was immediately under suspicion, until he could prove his innocence. Scores of innocent people were arrested and held temporarily until proper identification could be made.

One reputable Massachusetts citizen was mistaken so often for Booth, that he remained at home until the assassin was captured. The assassin was also "recognized" in Greensburg and Franklin, and in two other Pennsylvania towns. Then he was "seen" in Brooklyn, New York, two places in Maryland, and in Ohio, Illinois and Maine.

Perhaps, Pennsylvanians were just a little more concerned than most people about the escape route of the assassin, due to his knowledge of the oil regions of that state where he had suffered some severe losses in speculation.

ISSUE OF 1909 2-CENT STAMP



367

On January 22, 1909, Congress adopted a joint resolution reading: "Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Postmaster General is hereby authorized to design and issue a special postage stamp, of the denomination of 2-cents, in commemoration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln."

The stamp was designed in time to place it on sale on Lincoln's birthday, February 12.

A description of the stamp follows: "Size and Shape, the same as of the regular issue of postage stamps; color, red. The subject is a profile, within an ellipse on end, of the head of Lincoln from St. Gaudens' statue. A spray of laurel leaves appears on either side of the ellipse. Above the subject appears the words 'U. S. Postage.' Below, the ellipse is broken by a ribbon containing the dates of Lincoln's birth and the one-hundredth anniversary thereof (1809-Feb. 12-1909), with the denomination in words (Two-cents) beneath."

The two-cent Lincoln of 1909 can be classified as follows:

A 83	367	2¢ Carmine	Perf. 12
A 83	368	2¢ Carmine	Imperf.
A 83	369	2¢ Carmine	Bluish paper Perf. 12

This stamp was issued in coils for use in vending and affixing machines. These private perforations are by the U. S. Automatic Vending Co., Schermack, Mail-O-Meter and Brinkerhoff.

* * *

Lincoln—From all reports the Lincoln stamps have been immensely popular and the postoffice department is to be commended for having so expeditiously prepared and circulated a stamp that meets with so much approval. The workings of the department are admirably exemplified by this feat. While the portrait of Lincoln has been criticized favorably and the reverse, it is only fair to say that it is a striking and distinctive presentment of the features of the illustrious Lincoln. The head taken from the St. Gaudens' statue naturally becomes idealized when reduced to the small dimensions of a postage stamp but the pose is impressive and not unnatural. In connection with this reference to the personal appearance of Lincoln, we submit the following description of the president written in 1862 by Edward Dicey, one of the visiting newspaper correspondents during the war. Mr. Dicey perhaps was the second in reputation to the much-discussed "Bull Run" Russell, but unlike him, Mr. Dicey's sympathies were with the north, rather than the south. "With regard to the President himself, everybody spoke with an almost brutal frankness. Politically, at that time, Abraham Lincoln was regarded as a failure. He works hard and does little; and invites a painful sense of irresponsibility to a still more painful sense perhaps that his work is too great for him to grapple with Personally, his aspect is one which once seen cannot easily be forgotten Fancy a man six foot high and thin out of proportion, with long bony arms and legs, which somehow seem to be always in the way, with large, rugged hands, which grasp you like a vise when shaking yours, with a long scraggy neck, and a chest too narrow for the great arms hanging by its side; add to this figure, a head cocoanut-shaped and somewhat too small for such a stature, covered with rough, uncombed and uncombable lank, dark hair, that stands out in every direction at once; a face, furrowed and wrinkled and indented as though it had been scarred by vitriol; a high narrow forehead; and sunk deep beneath bushy eyebrows, two bright, somewhat dreamy eyes that seem to gaze through you without looking at you; a few irregular blotches of black, bristly hair in the place where beard and whiskers ought to grow; a close set, thin-lipped, stern mouth, with two rows of large, white teeth; and a nose and ears, which have been taken by mistake from a head of thrice the size."

N. J. Res 216

Public Resolution No 35.

Joint Resolution For a special Lincoln
postage stamp.

Resolved by the Senate & House of Represent-
atives of the United States of America in
Congress assembled, That the Postmaster-
General is hereby authorized to design
& issue a special postage stamp of the
denomination of two cents in commem-
oration of the one hundredth anniversary
of the birth of Abraham Lincoln.

Approved January 22, 1909.

